

# ANGLER GUIDE

## Elk River (Southwest Region)

Elk River is very popular with canoeists in southwest Missouri. The river also provides numerous fishing opportunities. All three species of **black bass** are present. **Smallmouth bass** are numerous and are usually found where good cover (rootwads and boulders) and current meet. Some of the better smallmouth bass habitat can be found between Pineville and MDC's Mt. Shira Access. During recent electrofishing surveys smallmouth bass up to 16" were collected. Excellent opportunities are also available to catch rock bass (goggle-eye). Fishing small, floating crayfish colored crankbaits, plastic jigs or live bait (crayfish and worms) around woody cover or large boulders in flowing water should provide the best results. **Channel catfish** are common in the lower sections of the river. Catfish can be caught on a variety of natural and prepared baits. If you enjoy gigging, the Elk River should not be overlooked. Clear water and an abundance of **redhorse suckers** and **northern hogsuckers** should provide for plenty of action. Public access sites are available on the upper river at MDC's Mt. Shira Access and on the lower river at Cowskin Access. Numerous canoe rental businesses are also located nearby, with drop-off and pick-up sites at several locations along the river.